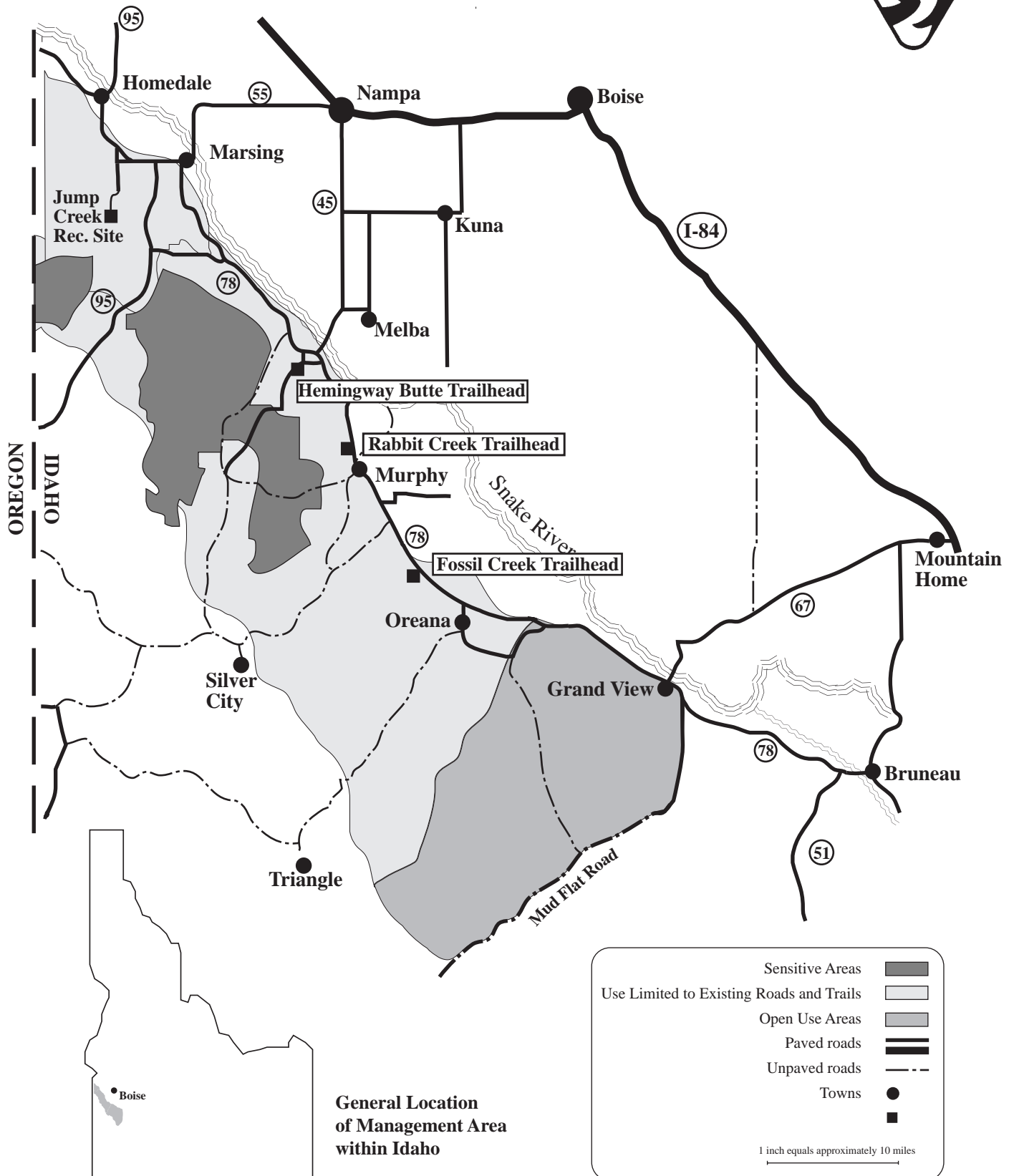


# OWYHEE FRONT MANAGEMENT AREA



# Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Use of the Owyhee Front Management Area

## Recreation Access

The Owyhee Front Management Area provides hundreds of miles of roads, trails, and sand washes for OHV recreation and other uses. Located 45 miles southwest of Boise, the management area encompasses over 400,000 acres of public land. Highway 78 from Marsing to Grandview generally forms its northern boundary.

The western half of the management area can be accessed through three developed trailheads: Hemingway Butte, Rabbit Creek, and Fossil Creek. Information kiosks, parking, and sanitation facilities are available at these trailheads. No trailhead facilities occur in the eastern half of the area.

## Off-Highway Vehicle Trail System

Off-highway vehicle users are welcome to explore many miles of existing roads, jeep and motorcycle trails, and sand washes found throughout much of the Owyhee Front. However, to protect recreational and natural resource values visitors must be attentive to signs limiting the extent of some OHV activities.

## Orange Trail Posts Mean “Stay on the Trail”

On lands designated for “Limited Use”, riders must stay on the existing trail system. The trail system can include primitive dirt roads, both jeep and motorcycle/ATV trails, and sand washes. Orange posts mark primitive dirt roads and trails that are authorized for OHV use, leading out from OHV trailheads and major roads. Sand washes are generally not posted. It is important to stay on the trail system because cross-country or off-trail travel can cause serious erosion and excessive scarring of the landscape. Also, many trails pass by fragile prehistoric archaeological sites and through fossil beds. Rare plant species may also be growing beside the trails and many animals are sensitive to OHV disturbance of their habitats.

## Yellow Trail Posts Signal Sensitive Resource Values

Within “Limited Use” areas, yellow posts identify closed routes because of highly sensitive resource values. Yellow posts are used to close individual roads, trails, or sand washes or to delineate large contiguous areas of land where OHV use may be seasonally

restricted, or where vehicle use may occur only on dirt roads and jeep trails.

## No Hill Climbing

Hill climbing is prohibited throughout the Owyhee Front except at the designated area around the Hemingway Butte OHV Trailhead. Hill climbing causes serious erosion and scenic degradation.

## Respect Grazing Operations

Livestock grazing occurs throughout the Owyhee Front. OHV recreation use is compatible with livestock grazing if users are responsible. Avoid grazing cattle and water troughs and pipelines, especially when young calves are present.

## Trail Tips

- *In “Limited Use” areas, always stay on existing roads and OHV trails and within sand washes (except where otherwise posted).*
- *Stay on well established OHV trails.* Avoid using faint trails and paths created by animal travel.
- *Ride responsibly.* Wheelspins cause trail ruts and “whoops”, leading to erosion and scarring. Slow down when the ground is muddy or extremely dry to help reduce trail damage. Make sure your exhaust is equipped with a spark arrestor.
- *Don’t disturb wildlife and wild horses.* If you see wildlife or horses on the trail, slow down, reduce engine noise, and either turn around or follow a trail leading in another direction.
- *Avoid grazing livestock.* Take routes around livestock herds or, if its necessary to travel through a herd, slow down and reduce engine noise. Be sure to close gates behind you or leave open as posted. Never cut fences.
- *Avoid sensitive resource areas* such as wild horse ranges, and crucial wildlife wintering and seasonal breeding habitats. These areas may be signed accordingly for “Limited Use.”
- *Don’t let litter and vandalism destroy our public lands.* Each year litter and vandalism cost taxpayers millions of dollars to repair or clean up. If you pack it in, pack it out.